1996 are declared. The Commission is now in the process of declaring the results.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise, in view of (e) above.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet at Edinburgh

*29. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister addressed CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet) held at Edinburgh in October, 1997;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held there and whether he was able to put forth a forceful case on behalf of the develping countries of the Commonwealth on issues of mass poverty and the problems of terrorism and drug-trafficking;

(c) whether he felt satisfied with the outcome of decisions taken at the Edinburgh Summit including his talks with other Heads of Government; and

(d) if so, with what results, particularly his meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) The PM addressed CHOGM held at Edinburgh in October, 1997. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects. The Prime Minister put forward a forceful case on behalf of the developing countries of the Commonwealth not only on issues of mass poverty and the problems of terrorism and drug-trafficking but also on a number of other issues.

The Prime Minister was satisfied both with the outcome of the discussions at the Commonwealth Summit, as also with his bilateral discussions with other Heads of Government, which were extremely useful and productive.

The Prime Minister had bilateral discussions with British PM Tony Blair, Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumartunga and Mauritian PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam. The meetings not only provided an opportunity to review bilateral relations but also to discuss other issues of mutual interest.

PM's meeting with Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif continued the renewed process of interaction at the highest political level between the two countries. The two leaders agreed on the need to enlarge people-to-people interaction and for this purpose to further relax visa regulations to enable greater travel between the two countries. They agreed that the staff strength of the Missions of the two countries would be augmented to facilitate the issuance of more visas. The two Prime Ministers decided that to mark the golden jubilee of the Independence of both countries, a series of lectures would be organised in both the countries in which prominent personalities in different fields from each others' countries would participate. The two Prime Ministers also directed the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries to continue their talks on the modalities for discussions on the subjects identified in the Joint Statement which was issued at the second round of Foreign Secretary level talks in Islamabad in June, 1997.

Visit to Foreign Countries

*30. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the inter-session period;

(b) the purpose of these visits;

(c) the details of the discussions that took place with the respective Governments; and

(d) the outcome of each of such discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister visited Tanzania, New York, Italy, Uganda, South Africa, Egypt and Edinburgh after the conclusion of the Monsoon Session.

Prime Minister visited Tanzania (September 18-20), Uganda (October 4-5) and South Africa (October 5-10) in Sub-Saharan Africa. The visits were intended to provide renewed focus